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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : H. NOMURA et al.

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Serial No. : 09/774,112

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed : January 31, 2001

For : A ZOOM LENS AND A MOVABLE LENS HOOD MOUNTING
MECHANISM OF THE ZOOM LENS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98,

Applicants hereby call the following documents to the attention of the Examiner:

U.S. Patent No. 6,014,269, to NOMURA et al., issued January 11, 2000;

U.S. Patent No. 5,812,889, to NOMURA et al., issued September 22, 1998;

U.S. Patent No. 5,589,987, to TANAKA, issued December 31, 1996; and

U.S. Patent No. 5,313,329, to UEDA, issued May 17, 1994.

Copies of the U.S. patents are enclosed herewith for the convenience of the Examiner and in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98. Further, each of the above-mentioned documents is listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form.

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The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider each listed document and to indicate such consideration by appropriately initialing and signing the enclosed PTO-1449 Form and returning a copy of the signed and initialed form with the next communication.

Applicants also bring to the Examiner's attention the following co-pending, commonly assigned U.S. patent applications:

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/774,123 to NOMURA et al., filed January 31, 2001, and entitled "A Zoom Lens Barrel"; ✓

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/774,111 to NOMURA et al., filed January 31, 2001, and entitled "Lens Barrier Opening/Closing Device of a Movable Lens Barrel"; ✓

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/772,896 to NOMURA et al., filed January 31, 2001 and entitled "Zoom Lens Barrel"; ✓

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/772,899 to NOMURA et al., filed January 31, 2001 and entitled "Cam Mechanism for Driving a Linearly-Guided Lens"; ✓

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/774,115 to NOMURA et al., filed January 31, 2001 and entitled "Lens Frame Guiding Mechanism of a Zoom Lens Barrel"; ✓

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/774,114 to NOMURA et al., filed January 31, 2001 and entitled "A Zoom Lens Having a Cam Mechanism"; ✓

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/772,872 to NOMURA et al., filed January 31, 2001 and entitled "A Movable Lens Hood Mechanism of a Zoom Lens"; ✓

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U.S. Patent Application No. 09/774,113 to NOMURA et al., filed January 31, 2001 and entitled "A Mechanism for Rotating a Cam Barrel of a Zoom Lens";

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/772,895 to NOMURA et al., filed January 31, 2001 and entitled "Bayonet Fixed Device of Ring Annular Member for Zoom Lens Having the Same"; and

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/774,671 to NOMURA et al., filed February 1, 2001 and entitled "A Zoom Lens Assembling Mechanism".

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(iii), copies of the above-noted patent applications, as filed, would normally be attached hereto. However, the copies of the U.S. patent Applications filed January 31, 2001 and February 1, 2001 that are cited herein are not being submitted at this time due to the unusual burden that is believed would be put on the Examiner and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office by the total volume and weight of the copies of the ten related applications and thus a waiver of the above-noted Rule is requested. Moreover, complete hard copies of all of the above cited related applications, and the present application, are being submitted with an Information Disclosure Statement in copending, commonly owned U.S. Patent Application No. 09/772,896, cited above. If this is not acceptable to the Examiner, Applicants will provide any requested materials.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to obtain and review the above listed copending applications and the prior art of record, if any, cited therein.

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Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
H. NOMURA et al.

Walt. E. Lynden Reg. No.
Bruce H. Bernstein 41,568
Reg. No. 29,027

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1941 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191